

warns that "we cannot survive more liberalism" at home or abroad. After all, he explains, "the world is far more dangerous than the day Ronald Reagan left office."

It is unclear, however, in what world they believe Americans to be living.

True, the percentage of GNP devoted to defense, about 3.2 percent, is lower than at any time since before World War II. Although that number fell to 3.5 percent in 1948, it climbed sharply with the onset of the Cold War and the very hot Korean War. One must go back to 1940, when military outlays ran about 1.7 percent of GNP, to find a lower ratio.

But so what? America's GNP then was \$96.5 billion, or about \$1.2 trillion in today's dollars. That compares with a GNP of more than \$8.7 trillion in 1999. In short, one percent of GNP today means eight times as much spending as in 1940.

Moreover, the United States was a military pygmy in 1940, with just 458,000 men under arms, up from around 250,000 during the mid-1920s through 1930s. America lagged well behind Britain, China, France, Germany, Japan, Russia—and even Italy.

Today Washington dominates the globe. It accounts for more than a third of the globe's defense outlays. It possesses the strongest military on earth: a well-trained force of 1.4 million employing the most advanced weapons. The United States spends as much on the military as the next seven nations combined, five of which are close allies.

In short, to suggest that America is weak, let alone as weak as before Pearl Harbor, is nonsense.

No less silly is the contention that the United States faces greater threats today than a decade ago. The world is messy, yes, and the end of the Cold War unleashed a series of small conflicts in the Balkans. But most of the globe's nasty little wars—such as in Angola, Kashmir, Sri Lanka and Sudan—began well before 1989. And none of these conflicts threatens the United States as did the struggle with the Soviet Union.

Moreover, virtually every pairing today favors America's friends. The Europeans spend more on the military than does Russia; Japan's outlays exceed those of China; South Korea vastly outspends North Korea. America's implacable enemies are few and pitiful: Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Serbia collectively spend \$12 billion to \$13 billion on the military, less than such U.S. Allies as Israel and Taiwan.

A decade ago was not so rosy. Not only did the Soviet Union spend more than twice as much as does Russia, but it formally confronted America. The Warsaw Pact states spent as much as NATO's eight smallest members. Heavily militarized Third World communist nations such as Angola, Ethiopia, North Korea and Vietnam, threatened U.S. surrogates. Most important, the American homeland was at risk. Today the possibility of a foreign attack on the United States is a paranoid fantasy.

Except in one form—terrorism. Although foreign governments, facing the threat of massive retaliation, are unlikely to strike America, ethnic, ideological and religious groups might not be so hesitant. But they are unlikely to do so out of abstract hatred of the United States. To the contrary, most acts of violence, such as those perpetrated by Osama bin Laden, are in response to U.S. intervention abroad. Terrorism is the weapon of choice of the relatively powerless against meddling by the globe's sole superpower.

In this case, America's strength, its global pervasive presence, is America's weakness.

The solution is not more military spending but greater military caution. The risk of terrorism must be added to the other costs of intervening in foreign quarrels with little relevance to U.S. security.

Should America's military be strengthened? Yes: Problems with readiness, recruiting and retention should be addressed, and missile defenses should be constructed. But outlays could still be slashed by shrinking force levels to match today's more benign threat environment. The world is less, not more dangerous, than a decade ago. America is relatively stronger today than ever before, notwithstanding the misguided claims of Messrs. Bush and McCain.

HONORING THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing The Congressional Award and the thousands of young Americans and adult advisors who participate in this truly outstanding youth program. The Congressional Award is our own, United States Congress' own, award program for America's youth. The Congressional Award is a public private partnership created by Congress to promote and recognize achievement, initiative and service in America's youth. The Congressional Award provides a unique opportunity for young people to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development and citizenship.

A 1986 recipient of The Congressional Award Gold Medal, John M. Falk in commenting on The Congressional Award said the following:

The United States Congress, through the Congressional Award, has made a lasting and positive impact on every young person to receive this Award by simply recognizing and encouraging their service to our communities, their initiative and their unique achievements.

The Congressional Award is a true public private-partnership that is premised upon the very basic concept that by recognizing and encouraging young people to give of themselves to their communities and their neighbors, not only will our communities be better off but so will our young people by the very nature of the experience—hopefully for the rest of their lives.

The power and importance of the Congressional Award draws from the fact that truly any young person willing to accept the challenge can earn the Award. If you speak with a former Award recipient you will quickly learn how their lives have been changed in very positive ways by building self esteem and leadership skills, encouraging initiative and reinforcing the value of service to others. The Congress has every right to be proud of this bipartisan program and the manner in which they have directly enriched the lives of thousands of young Americans since 1979.

On Wednesday, March 22, 2000 The Congressional Award Foundation will hold its Annual Gala at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center to celebrate 20 years of service

and commitment to America's youth. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this program and join in the celebration. In addition, I would add special thanks to our private sector partners who make The Congressional Award possible through their support; they are:

2000 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GALA STEERING COMMITTEE

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The support of these private sector sponsors has enabled The Congressional Award National Office to create exciting new partnerships with schools and youth organizations across the Nation.

Thousands of new participants will enjoy the benefits of participation in the Congress Award thanks to their efforts. I commend them for it.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 24

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense and the Future Years Defense Program, focusing on DOD policies and programs to combat terrorism.

SR-222

10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine rising oil prices.

SD-342

MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Communications Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the current state of deployment of hi-speed Internet technologies, focusing on rural areas.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for the Environmental Protection Agency's clean air programs and the Army Corps of Engineers wetlands programs.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Children and Families Subcommittee
To hold hearings on child safety on the Internet.

SD-430

Small Business
To hold hearings to examine the extent of office supply scams, including toner-phoner schemes.

SD-562

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues dealing with mind body and alternative medicines.

SD-192

Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings to examine settlements between the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and certain Medicare providers and whether these settlements conform to HCFA regulations.

SD-342

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Driver's Privacy Pro-

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tection Act, focusing on the positive notification requirement.

SD-192

Judiciary
Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine cyber attacks, focusing on removing roadblocks to investigation and information sharing.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine issues dealing with Iran and Iraq, focusing on the future of nonproliferation policy.

SD-419

3 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Foreign Relations
To hold joint hearings to examine United States dependency on foreign oil.

SH-216

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Dr. Peter Lee case.

SD-226

Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on how to structure government to meet the challenges of the millennium.

SD-342

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Air Force programs.

SD-192

Finance
To resume hearings to examine the inclusion of a prescription drug benefit in the Medicare program.

SD-215

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on meeting the challenges of the millennium, focusing on proposals to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Government.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1778, to provide for equal exchanges of land around the Cascade Reservoir, S. 1894, to provide for the conveyance of certain land to Park County, Wyoming, and S. 1969, to provide for improved management of, and increases accountability for, outfitted activities by which the public

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gains access to and occupancy and use of Federal land.

SD-366

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 1967, to make technical corrections to the status of certain land held in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to take certain land into trust for that Band; S. 1507, to authorize the integration and consolidation of alcohol and substance programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments; and S. 1509, to amend the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992, to emphasize the need for job creation on Indian reservations.

SR-485

MARCH 30

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-138

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-124

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on S. 882, to strengthen provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 with respect to potential Climate Change; and S. 1776, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to revise the energy policies of the United States in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advance global climate science, promote technology development, and increase citizen awareness.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings on medical records privacy.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works
Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Assessment Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the Administration's fiscal year 2001 budget for programs with the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

SD-406

2 p.m.

Judiciary
Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine racial profiling within law enforcement agencies.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the President's October 1999 announcement to review approximately 40 million acres

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of national forest lands for increased protection.

SD-366

MARCH 31

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Energy's findings at the Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, Kentucky, and plans for cleanup at the site.

SD-366

APRIL 4

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Office of the Special Trustee, Department of the Interior.

SD-138

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 612, to provide for periodic Indian needs assessments, to require Federal Indian program evaluations.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Army programs.

SD-192

APRIL 6

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the incinerator component at the proposed Advanced Waste Treatment Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and its potential impact on the adjacent Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

SD-366

APRIL 8

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense, focusing on medical programs.

SD-192

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on S. 282, to provide that no electric utility shall be required to enter into a new contract or obligation to purchase or to sell electricity or capacity under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; S. 516, to benefit consumers by promoting competition in the electric power industry; S. 1047, to provide for a more competitive electric power industry; S. 1284, to amend the Federal Power Act to ensure that no State may establish, maintain, or enforce on behalf of any electric utility an exclusive right to sell electric energy or otherwise unduly discriminate against any consumer who seeks to purchase electric energy in interstate commerce from any supplier; S. 1273, to amend the Federal Power Act, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets; S. 1369, to enhance the benefits of the national electric system by encouraging and supporting State programs for renewable energy sources, universal electric service, affordable electric service, and energy conservation and efficiency; S. 2071, to benefit electricity consumers by promoting the reliability of the bulk-power system; and S. 2098, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets, and to ensure electric reliability.

SH-216

APRIL 12

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Corporation for National and Community Service, Community Development Financial Institutions, and Chemical Safety Board.

SD-138

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the report of the Academy for Public Administration on Bureau of Indian Affairs management reform.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense, focusing on missile defense programs.

SD-192

APRIL 13

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Na-

tional Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-138

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 282, to provide that no electric utility shall be required to enter into a new contract or obligation to purchase or to sell electricity or capacity under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; S. 516, to benefit consumers by promoting competition in the electric power industry; S. 1047, to provide for a more competitive electric power industry; S. 1284, to amend the Federal Power Act to ensure that no State may establish, maintain, or enforce on behalf of any electric utility an exclusive right to sell electric energy or otherwise unduly discriminate against any consumer who seeks to purchase electric energy in interstate commerce from any supplier; S. 1273, to amend the Federal Power Act, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets; S. 1369, to enhance the benefits of the national electric system by encouraging and supporting State programs for renewable energy sources, universal electric service, affordable electric service, and energy conservation and efficiency; S. 2071, to benefit electricity consumers by promoting the reliability of the bulk-power system; and S. 2098, to facilitate the transition to more competitive and efficient electric power markets, and to ensure electric reliability.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 2034, to establish the Canyons of the Ancients National Conservation Area.

SD-366

APRIL 26

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 19

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S. 611, to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

SR-485